

## NCESS EOI Eastern Goldfields Questions & Answers

### **Question 1:** 23 Apr 2024

Are Western Power expecting the NCESS provider to recover its costs within the initial 5-year term?

**Answer 1:** Answered on 1 May 2024

Western Power typically enters into NCESS contract for five years, with an option to extend for an additional five years. If an NCESS provider would like to propose an alternative timeframe, they are encouraged to provide feedback in their Expression of Interest (EOI) response.

### **Question 2:** 23 Apr 2024

Will liquid fuel backup be required? Or is gas only enough?

**Answer 2:** Answered on 1 May 2024

If your solution aligns with the service specifications (in particular to support the outage duration), any technology could be considered. Western Power seeks innovation from the market. Please include additional details in your Expression of Interest (EOI) response, including the outage period your facility is able to cover.

### **Question 3:** 23 Apr 2024

what's the duration you are looking for?

**Answer 3:** Answered on 1 May 2024

Western Power is looking for a suite of solutions that could collectively cover and outage for a duration of 4 weeks. Please provide feedback in the Expression of Interest (EOI) response.

### **Question 4:** 23 Apr 2024

A five year contract term will make new investment hard to provide a cost effective solution.

**Answer 4:** Answered on 1 May 2024

Western Power typically enters into an NCESS contract for five years, with an option to extend for an additional five years. If an NCESS provider would like to propose an alternative timeframe, they are encouraged to provide feedback in their Expression of Interest (EOI) response.

### **Question 5:** 23 Apr 2024

Is there flexibility in contract term to allow for investment?

**Answer 5:** Answered on 1 May 2024

Yes, there is flexibility both in terms of start date and overall duration. Please provide more details in your EOI submission.

**Question 6:** 23 Apr 2024

For reliability: Could you expand on the requirement to provide coverage for a continuous outage duration of up to 4 weeks? e.g. a BESS won't have enough energy to supply 4 weeks. unless this with no load?

**Answer 6:** Answered on 1 May 2024

The reference to the four-week duration pertains to the specified maximum capability. Our goal is to functionally achieve this four-week duration for the entire 150MW capacity we are seeking. If this capacity is composed of different components, we welcome proposals from various technology types to contribute to the overall mix. While individual units may have varying durations, collectively, we aim to cover a range of technologies and ultimately achieve that four-week duration.

**Question 7:** 23 Apr 2024

What is an NCESS submission?

**Answer 7:** Answered on 1 May 2024

The NCESS Submission is equivalent to the tender submission. We refer to it as NCESS Submission because we follow the terminology used in WEM rules.

**Question 8:** 23 Apr 2024

Can you please clarify the following statement: "Recent technical and economic assessments carried out by Western Power have identified that, while it complies with the current reliability standard, if the proposed improvement to the minimum reliability standard is implemented it will require Western Power to consider an alternative option in order to maintain the safety or reliability of the covered network and its ability to provide contracted covered services as the existing two Synergy gas turbines do not have the capability to service any increased load."

**Answer 8:** Answered on 1 May 2024

This statement is contained within Western Power's Trigger Submission, and should be taken in that context.

**Question 9:** 23 Apr 2024

what would be the optimised grid connection process given that this EOI is specifically for network support? Or is this a standard connection and assessment process for any generation open access? will Western Power assist and accelerate the process for new generation connection?

**Answer 9:** Answered on 1 May 2024

In this situation, when a new facility seeks a connection to the transmission system to become an NCESS provider, Western Power will collaborate closely with the NCESS provider to guide them through the process.

**Question 10:** 23 Apr 2024

What is an NCESS submission - relates to the dates on slide 15. Does it mean a formal tender process?

**Answer 10:** Answered on 1 May 2024

The NCESS Submission is equivalent to the tender submission. We refer to it as NCESS Submission because we follow the terminology used in WEM rules.

**Question 11:** 23 Apr 2024

will WP provide land next to the current WKT site?

**Answer 11:** Answered on 1 May 2024

Western Power has not specifically reserved land for this purpose. When developing solutions, we will seek the most optimal land arrangement. Western Power expects the NCESS provider to have a plan for land allocation. As a general rule, Western Power's land provision is primarily for its own expansion requirements. Additionally, the draft Service Specification indicates that Development WA has land available in that area.

**Question 12:** 23 Apr 2024

The load on the islanded EGF varies and will not be 150 MW at all times, so the actual load to be met might peak at 150, but 150 is not needed continuously. So a lesser quantity at times should be suitable as long as the load is being met at all times. Is that correct?

**Answer 12:** Answered on 1 May 2024

Yes, that is correct.

**Question 13:** 23 Apr 2024

will other State Government Agencies assist approvals such as EPA, DA etc?

**Answer 13:** Answered on 1 May 2024

Western Power does not anticipate any special provision to be made with respect to the role of government agencies in the approval process. However, NCESS providers are encouraged to speak to relevant government agencies pertaining to this matter.

**Question 14:** 23 Apr 2024

Why is the Sys Security referenced to 220kV when the connection for new or existing equipment will likely be at 132kV, and the backbone of EGF network is 132kV. The size of machine(s) to provide 1500 MVA at 220kV will be different to 1500 MVA 132kV, will the spec be update to reference 132kV..?

**Answer 14:** Answered on 1 May 2024

Assuming the question is referring to “System Strength”, the main requirement is during an intact network when the 220kV transmission line is in-service; hence the 1,500 MVA has been specified with reference to 220kV.

**Question 15:** 26 Apr 2024

In the draft service specification, the criteria includes “evidenced delivery dates” which is a pass or fail. The single key variable around our delivery date will be the Western Power Access Offer for a connection to the network and the subsequent network construction work to enable that access offer.

In our experience from current Access Applications and connection works we would assume best case that is 3 years and likely case would be closer to 4 years. All other components are achievable within a 2 year window.

In order to respond to the “evidenced delivery dates” I need to make assumptions around how long it will take to get through the Western Power components.

I am aware Western Power is progressing a priority projects model (which I expect you will share with industry next month in your update sessions) but is there a set of assumptions we can use in our response that Western Power would be comfortable us using? I appreciate this will be specific to each project being proposed as part of the NCESS EOI so I would be happy to share what we are contemplating. Likewise if there was a “connection like this model” from Western Power that would support the timeframes proposed then we can look to adopt that instead.

At this stage I am struggling to see how I can get a project from a standing start to in operation by 1 July 2026 and if that rules us out automatically then it would seem this can only be met by facilities connected today or proposed/committed facilities that already have an access offer on the Kalgoorlie 132 kV network. For comparison if it was applying to the AEMO 2024 reserve capacity cycle which requires a facility to be in-service by 1 October 2026 I am certain I would be ruled out on the basis I am not sufficiently advanced in a connection with Western Power.

**Answer 15:** Answered on 1 May 2024

Western Power acknowledges the connection timeline is a factor of the total timeframe of the provision of the services. For new facilities Western Power will facilitate future connections in accordance with the WEM Rules and its Connections Policy.

The Pass / Fail criteria is looking for evidence that the NCESS provider can meet the Delivery Dates that they submitted in their submission (examples of previous build and experience to substantiate the delivery date).

Western Power encourages NCESS provider to suggest feasible commencement date.

**Question 16:** 23 Apr 2024

For an existing facility participating in the NEM, will the NCESS related dispatch instructions be differentiated from the BAU dispatch instruction from AEMO.

**Answer 16:** Answered on 14 May 2024

Assuming the question is referring to WEM (not NEM), the NCESS related dispatch will not be differentiated from the BAU dispatch instruction.

**Question 17:** 23 Apr 2024

If the plant is not able to be called in the WEM then can WP dispatch it?

**Answer 17:** Answered on 14 May 2024

If it is a Registered Facility the dispatch will be done by AEMO, the NCESS related dispatch will not be differentiated from the BAU dispatch instruction. For any other facility or equipment, please provide more information in the EOI response.

**Question 18:** 8 May 2024

EOI Response Tab, Item 3, 'The quantity of service the facility or equipment will provide for the NCESS'. System Strength amount requested in MVA, but pricing tab unit in MW. Please confirm units to utilise.

**Answer 18:** Answered on 14 May 2024

You can provide the answer in either MVA or MW depending on the proposed technology.

**Question 19:** 8 May 2024

EOI Response Tab, Item 11, 'If the facility or equipment would ordinarily be capable of being assigned Certified Reserve Capacity, whether the Market Participant, or service provider, would require any reimbursement of any Capacity Cost Refunds it must pay as a direct consequence of the enablement or dispatch of the NCESS'

Is Western Power offering to pay the proponent's capacity refunds to AEMO, should the facility be dispatched under NCESS and unable to meet Capacity requirements?

**Answer 19:** Answered on 14 May 2024

No, Western Power is not offering to pay the capacity refunds.

**Question 20:** 8 May 2024

EOI Response Tab, Item 13, 'Any other payment that the facility or equipment requires to provide the NCESS'. Can Western Power provide examples of this?

**Answer 20:** Answered on 14 May 2024

Western Power expects respondents to include all costs in items 10 and 12 in the EOI response tab.

**Question 21:** 8 May 2024

REOI Response Tab, Item 17, 'Technical capabilities'. What information is being requested? Proponent, EPC, O&M, OEM technical capabilities?

**Answer 21:** Answered on 14 May 2024

NCESS provider should provide the information in the Service Specification tab. However, if there are other information that have not been provided in any other part in the form, provide it here.

**Question 22:** 8 May 2024

EOI Response Tab, Item 21, 'Aboriginal participation'. This is not a construction and maintenance contract. Please confirm this does not apply.

**Answer 22:** Answered on 14 May 2024

Construction and maintenance contract is not something we envisioned at the meantime, hence will not apply at this stage. However, if there is a construction and maintenance component, this may apply.

**Question 23:** 8 May 2024

Service Specification (WP) Tab, Paragraph 3.1.1, 'The Reliability Service is required to provide a System Restart Service for the EGF Island in the event there is total loss of supply. The System Restart Service is required to be fully redundant (N 1) to provide adequate security for planned or unplanned contingencies; this can be provided either by the same Service offering or across multiple NCESS Services (provided the desired N-1 functionality is achieved).'

Please help to explain the fully redundant situation. Does it mean we need to consider duplicate transformer, and other connection equipment?

**Answer 23:** Answered on 14 May 2024

Western Power is seeking the NCESS Provider to cater for all common mode failure, hence duplicate transformer is required.

**Question 24:** 8 May 2024

Service Specification (WP) Tab, Paragraph 3.1.2(a)(ii), 'Comply with the terms of the NCESS provider connection agreement, including any obligation(s) to comply with the Technical Rules (TR) and/or WEM Rules.'

Will the NCESS be a separate agreement? Or it will be covered in the connection agreement?

**Answer 24:** Answered on 14 May 2024

At this stage it is anticipated the NCESS Contract, and the connection (access) agreement will be separate.

**Question 25:** 8 May 2024

Service Specification (WP) Tab, Paragraph 3.5.4, 'Service providers of the Reliability Service must provide evidence of the equipment's capability to meet utilisation requirements.'

Could you clarify the meaning of utilisation requirement.

**Answer 25:** Answered on 14 May 2024

Utilisation requirement in this context is referring to 3.5.3 where NCESS provider is expected to provide coverage for a continuous outage duration up to four (4) weeks for your specified maximum capability.

**Question 26:** 8 May 2024

Service Specification (WP) Tab, Paragraph 4.3.1, 'The maximum quantity of the System Strength Service required (from all NCESS providers) is 1,500 MVA of three-phase fault level contribution measured at the WKT 220kV bus. This may be provided by either a single provider or several different providers across multiple Services and/or locations.'

System Strength amount requested in MVA, but pricing tab unit in MW. Please confirm units to utilise.

**Answer 26:** Answered on 14 May 2024

You can provide the answer in either MVA or MW depending of the proposed technology.

**Question 27:** 8 May 2024

Service Specification (WP) Tab, Paragraph 4.5.2, 'Service Providers of the System Strength Service must provide evidence of the equipment's capability to meet utilisation requirements.'

Could you clarify the meaning of utilisation requirement.

**Answer 27:** Answered on 14 May 2024

Utilisation requirement in this context is referring to 4.5.1 where NCESS provider is expected to be available to operate under all system conditions, as directed by AEMO.

**Question 28:** *9 May 2024*

Western Power please confirm what is meant by N-1 redundancy in the context of NCESS.

For example,

2 x Power Plant Controllers (PPC)

2 x Main transformers (each rated at 50% of our site total)

Duplicate (X and Y) protection on our balance of plant, i.e. 33 kV switchgear.

Bus tie in our primary electrical systems, i.e. 33 kV switchgear. For example, our site capacity split across two buses with a bus tie; as opposed to breaker-and-a-half or double bus.

Redundant communication systems (between our site and Western Power).

**Answer 28:** *Answered on 14 May 2024*

Please refer to draft Service Specification section 3.1.1.